## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9. Claim 9 was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been so amended. Accordingly, it is believed that pending claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Masaaki YOKOYAMA et al.

Bv:

Warren M. Cheek, Jr Registration No. 33,367 Attorney for Applicants

WMC/dlk Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 December 19, 2003